

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated October 19, 2005. Claims 1 to 40 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 11, 21 and 31 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 31 to 40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because they are allegedly directed to non-statutory subject matter. Without conceding the correctness of the rejection, Claims 31 to 40 have been amended to clarify that they are directed to a program stored on a computer-readable medium. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 4, 14 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for allegedly containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. Without conceding the correctness of the rejection, the claims have been amended to clarify that Claims 4, 14 and 24 are directed to automated methods and apparatuses. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 1 to 5, 8, 9, 11 to 15, 18, 19, 21 to 25, 28 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,995,719 (Bourdeau'Hui). Claims 6, 16 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Bourdeau'Hui in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,506,661 (Hanzawa). Claims 7, 17 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Bourdeau'Hui in view of the applicant's admitted prior art. Claims 6, 16 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Bourdeau'Hui in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,495,561 (Holt). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

The present invention concerns segmenting and cutting a surface of a sheet, such as a four-postcard sheet, into a plurality of areas and the layout of print data for each area. The segmenting and cutting for a plurality of sets of data is done such that each set of data includes front-surface data (such as addresses) and back-surface data (such as text) which are input from an application. In this case, print data of the front and back surfaces of one set are laid out on front and back surfaces of each area into which the surface of the sheet is segmented. Typically, when such a process is performed, the front and back surfaces of the same set are not laid out on each area because the layout for the front surface is the same as the back surface. However, and in accordance with the present invention, it is possible to obtain print in which the printed data has been laid out such that the front-surface data (addresses) and the back-surface data (text) correspond to each other. Therefore, the present invention obtains a print of a set of front and back surfaces, respectively, for example, by cutting the print.

Turning to specific claim language, amended independent Claim 1 is directed to an information processing apparatus segmenting a sheet into a plurality of areas and controlling the print data layout in each of the plurality of areas. The apparatus includes print setting means for setting print settings; input means for inputting a plurality of sets of data from an application, each set of data including print data of front and back surfaces of each area; determination means for determining whether a surface which undergoes an imposition process is to be at the front or back surface; page order setting means for setting the printing order of each set of data for one sheet such that the printed data covers a front surface and corresponding back surface of each area; and imposition process means for performing the imposition process on the basis of the order set by the page order setting means.

In contrast, Bourdeau'Hui discloses laying out print data for 32 pages on a single sheet to obtain a print, and laying out print data of respective 2 pages for upper and lower surfaces on a sheet, which is segmented into four areas, when a print of a proof sheet is needed. That is, Bourdeau'Hui relates to an imposition process for obtaining a bookbinding print. Therefore, layout of successive pages (e.g., 32 pages) is determined such that page order is serialized when the print is folded. However, Bourdeau'Hui fails to disclose or suggest an information processing apparatus including a determination means for determining whether a surface which performs an imposition process is to be at the front or back surface of a sheet and a page order setting means for setting the printing order of each set of data for one sheet such that the printed data covers a predetermined front area and its symmetrical reverse area, in a case where the sheet is cut into the plurality of areas.

In particular, Bourdeau'Hui merely discloses page layout for bookbinding styke printing. There is no disclosure or suggestion of laying out a plurality of sets of data such that each set of data includes print data of front and back surfaces of a sheet. Thus, Bourdeau'Hui fails to disclose or suggest setting the printing order of each set of data for one sheet such that the printed data covers a predetermined front area and its symmetrical reverse area.

In light of the deficiencies of Bourdeau'Hui as discussed above, Applicants submit that amended independent Claim 1 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully request same.

Amended independent Claims 11, 21, and 31 are directed to a method, a computer-readable medium and a program stored on a computer-readable medium, respectively, substantially in accordance with the apparatus of Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claims 11, 21, and 31 are also now in condition for allowance and respectfully request same.

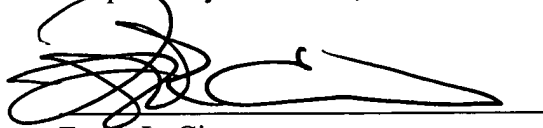
The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

On another matter, attached hereto is a copy of a Form PTO-1449 which accompanied the Information Disclosure Statement dated October 12, 2005. The Examiner is respectfully requested to initial and return the PTO-1449, thereby indicating that the art cited in the Information Disclosure Statement in question has been considered and made formally of record.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank L. Cire', is written over a horizontal line.

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